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2. Soviet and Japanese Troops in Korea

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1. In early June, the question of initiating a full-scale world-wide war was discussed in the "Soviet Military Committee."¹ No decision was reached, pending discussion by the "International Cominform." In mid-April the "International Cominform" had made three informal decisions on the Korean war and future policy.² First, if the second Chinese Communist offensive fails, plans should be based on a third world war in 1955-1956. Second, the Korean-Manchurian border is to be defended at all costs. Third, if United Nations forces attack Manchuria, a world war in the near future is unavoidable.³

2. On 2-3 June, 50,000 Japanese troops sent from the USSR landed at Najin (130-19, 42-15).⁴ These troops were POW's captured by the Soviets and trained in various units for six months under the special direction and instruction of the Soviet Military Committee.

3. Between 1948 and 1951, the Soviets conscripted and trained about 200,000 Soviet-Koreans in the USSR. On 23 May these troops arrived at Paegam (128-48, 41-14). They included artillery and cavalry units, completely armed and wearing North Korean uniforms. The mission of these troops is the construction and defense of a line just north of the 39th parallel. They will not be sent to the front lines.

4. On 1 June, about 200 Chinese Communist fighter planes and 1,500 air force personnel, of whom 500 were Soviet air force troops, were engaged in the Korean war.⁵

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5. Military aid for Communist forces in Korea is supplied to Chinese Communist depots in Manchuria whence it is shipped to North Korean and Chinese Communist forces in Korea. By the end of June, tanks, artillery, machine guns, and about 200 additional fighter planes are to be supplied to the Chinese Communist forces [redacted]. These planes are to be operated by Soviet pilots.

1. [redacted] Comment. Although a committee headed by Marshal Bulganin and composed of various ministers responsible for the armed forces and war industries meets as part of the Big Office of the Council of Ministers to consider military questions, this probably is not that committee but a local committee directed by Soviet military advisers in Korea.
2. [redacted] Comment. This is obviously not the Cominform as that body does not make policy decisions, but is probably a meeting of high-ranking Soviet, Korean and Chinese leaders in Korea.
3. [redacted] Comment. It was unclear whether air raids on Manchuria would be considered an attack.
4. [redacted] Comment. The number appears too large for available sea or rail transport.
- [redacted] Comment. A Chinese [redacted] reported in [redacted] that 12,000 Japanese troops arrived in P'yongyang on 20 May.
5. [redacted] Comment. There have been no confirmed reports of Soviet troops and air force personnel in Korea except those in an advisory capacity and some Soviet AAA units guarding the Sinuiju-P'yongyang rail line.

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